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THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE REDUCED TO ITS SIMPLEST FORM.

IMPORTANT

PHILANTHROPIC DISCOVERY

OF M. LOUIS DESCHAMPS;

BY MEANS OF WHICH

Every one can be his own Physician and Druggist.

REMARKS ON THE

CULTIVATION OF A PLANT

WHICH WILL BE OF ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO HUMANITY:

ALSO, ON

THE DANGERS ARISING FROM

THE USE OF FIRE-ARMS,

RESULTING FROM THE PRECAUTIONS GENERALLY  
USED TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

148775  
WILLIAMSBURGH, L. I.

WILLIAMSBURGH COTTAGE,  
NEAR THE PECK-SLIP FERRY.

1850.

# IMPORTANT PHILANTHROPIC DISCOVERY.

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TO THE EDITORS OF THE NEWSPAPER PRESS THROUGHOUT  
THE UNITED STATES,

GENTLEMEN :—

The importance of my philanthropic discovery, encourages the belief of its favorable reception by the press of the United States, which I select as the medium of communicating its benefits. I indulge the hope that the public good will take precedence of private interests, and that your good example will be imitated by your brother journalists throughout the world, in order that humanity at large may receive the blessings which my discovery offers to their acceptance, and that my poor country may not be the last to appreciate its value.

I also take the present opportunity of communicating to humanity the virtues of a plant which chance has thrown in my way, and which is destined to prove of great service as a sanative agent. It is perennial and easy of cultivation. I shall send some of the seed to the governor of each of the states, together with fifty copies of my memoir which he will have the goodness to distribute among the press of his state. My memoir will close with an exposition of the dangers incident to the use of percussion fire-arms—dangers which originate in the very means taken to prevent them, and give rise, every year, to deplorable accidents.

In characterizing my discovery as the most important that has ever been made, I shall not be deemed guilty of exaggeration by any one who regards health as the most precious boon that we enjoy.

It presents a simple, uniform and easy mode, enabling every patient to be his own physician and druggist, and provides families with the means of obtaining, at one supply, a stock of health for one or more years, just as they now purchase a store of preserves.

Its application is very simple, and is based on the indications afforded by our animal mechanism. Invariably the same, whatever may be the nature of the morbid affection, the only variation is in the greater or less amount of time, which, according to the intensity of the malady, is required to effect the proper result. As soon as it is administered, it checks the progress of the disease, and nothing more is then requisite than to give nature sufficient time to accomplish a reorganization. In spontaneous acute maladies, the patient in from 24 to 48 hours, is almost always in a state of convalescence, unless affected by some complication of chronic disease.

In chronic complaints, on an average of two weeks, the patient after a rigorous application of the remedy, is either cured, or so far improved

as to anticipate, with confidence, a prompt recovery. But should a contrary result take place, it is because the disorganization of the animal economy has reached such a point that nature has become powerless. In such a case I deem the malady incurable, but others may, perhaps, find more efficient remedies than that which I present. On investigation, there may perhaps be brought to light hundreds of vegetable combinations possessing the same virtues as that to which I now call attention—simple perhaps, and more active, for nature is a boundless field, whose soil, as yet has been scarcely furrowed.

My discovery rests on this great principle, that in all our morbid affections, nature is the only recuperative power in repairing the disorganizations of our animal mechanism, and it is only necessary to allow the motive power (the digestive organs, the great chemical laboratory of our machine) the necessary repose, and then to supply it with the requisite materials for repairing the disorganizations under which we suffer. The combination of vegetables which chance enabled me to discover, unites all the necessary conditions; and one of its most important benefits, in my opinion, is the power which it imparts to those who take it, of remaining several days without food, without experiencing the sensation of hunger. Nature seems to make a necessary pause, in order to labor effectually at the work of repairing the digestive mechanism. The severity of the disorganization may almost always be estimated by the length of time required by the appetite to regain its normal condition.

It is of the highest importance that as soon as possible, a public application should be made in one of the principal cities of the United States, which should commence by the nomination of a committee to make an investigation at New York, of the results obtained by those who have, thus far, made use of my panacea. I would furnish them with all the means in my power for making the necessary inquiries. They would meet with cures, frequently of a most surprising nature, in cases of numerous descriptions of disease. About three hundred persons have thus far made use of my discovery, so that an ample field is furnished for the desired investigation. Many persons have given me their addresses incorrectly, but probably by exercising a little patience, and inserting advertisements in the newspapers, they could be found without much difficulty. At all events, a committee thus appointed, could obtain sufficient facts, by means of a public application, to justify a favorable report. This trial should be made in the most open manner, so as to leave no room for suspicion to be cast on its fairness. Spontaneous acute diseases, unconnected with any chronic complaint, should be first selected, in which the schools of medicine would employ bleeding, vesication, sinapisms, cauterizations, setons, lotions, and a variety of other inventions which the resources of art furnish for our preservation. I really believe, that in the treatment of a hundred patients, attacked with these different maladies, resort would formerly have been had to all the contents of an apothecary's shop.

It would be my desire to superintend the first public applications in person; for though my prescriptions are very simple and very easy to follow, still I dread that propensity which leads so many to dabble in medicine. I have already met with numerous instances where persons have assured me that they followed my directions, though they did the very reverse, believing that it was a matter of no consequence, and who sometimes told me that they acted in conformity with established practice.

When we have long been accustomed to a system of practice, con-



ducted on false principles, we are always prone to relapse into it imperceptibly; hence, I risk but little in saying that if, by chance, a physician can be found who uses my remedy, his administration of it will always be affected by the errors inherent in the prevailing system of medicine. Among others is the gross mistake, often inducing most lamentable results, of giving medicine to a patient two or three hours after a meal. Long experience has convinced me that in a healthy condition, the digestive mechanism requires, after the reception of food, a period of seven hours, in order to be in a proper condition for the administration of medicine, while with persons of a weak digestion, ten hours are frequently found necessary.

I advise that whenever these public applications may be made, such persons only shall be employed in conducting them, as have never been engaged in the preparation of medicaments; otherwise, the danger would be incurred of not obtaining more satisfactory results from this medical experiment, than we should derive, in a political point of view, from a republic governed by jesuit monarchists.

This is what I propose to the public. In some public place, let a building be prepared for the reception of a hundred patients, more or less; let me take charge of those who are laboring under spontaneous acute diseases of the most varied character, unaffected by any complication of chronic complaints, (these and incurable cases would follow in due order,) and let a pledge be given that nothing shall interfere between me and the accomplishment of my philanthropic undertaking. I will then take the responsibility of guarantying the results with the balance of my fortune, amounting to some hundred thousand francs.

My desire is, I repeat, that everything should be done openly, so that no doubt may remain that my discovery is a giant stride toward the attainment of the well-being of society. I shall commence by a public preparation of my panacea, beginning with the pulverization of the roots and finishing with the complete confection of the syrup, in accordance with the receipt which I communicate to the public. This operation finished, the remedy can be at once administered to the sick.

I ask nothing as a recompense for my sacrifice of time and money, but the propagation of my discovery, in order that it may become popular, and that all mankind may receive the benefits attendant on its use.

It is very important that the experiment should be made with the least possible delay, in order at once to appreciate the remedy at its just value, so that it may be used with confidence in cases of cholera, should that epidemic, as is expected, again visit us.

In yellow fever it should be applied at once. Twenty-four hours will be sufficient to attest its value.

I intend establishing depots of syrup in some of the principal cities of the United States, so that after the public applications of it shall have been made, the original may always be found, and fraudulent imitations thus be prevented.

I shall only remain in the United States so long as may be necessary for the interests of my discovery. I should be glad, before returning to my country, to see nearly every family in the habit of compounding this medicine themselves, and applying it skilfully. I will do all in my power to assist them, by facilitating, as far as possible, the means for attaining this end.

My discovery is susceptible of many improvements which will, in due season, be communicated to the public. I have made several observations, which, however, require farther confirmation, before I can



give them publicity. If a hospital were placed under my charge I should soon be able to obtain the necessary information.

My communications in reference to this subject, will be made through the Sunday Times, whose senior Editor, Major Noah, has, since my arrival in New York, evinced a marked interest in my discovery. I make this selection, as I know of no other journal which embraces more readily the progressive ideas of the age, or which is fitter to be made the medium of communicating my discovery to mankind.

# RECEIPT FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE PANACEA.

Jalap pulverized very fine.....	9 oz.
Anise .....	2 "
Infuse or macerate for four days in alcohol.....	4 lbs.
Taking care at the same time to stir up the whole.	
Rhubarb coarsely pulverized .....	1 lb.
Squine or China root.....	1 "
Sarsaparilla .....	4 lbs.
Aristolochia .....	12 oz.

Boil these four substances together in about eight gallons of water, for two hours, in a copper saucepan, and add to the decoction.

Seed vessels of senna (or leaves, if these cannot be obtained).....	2 lbs.
Sassafras coarsely pulverized.....	2 "

Leave the whole boiling for an hour, then put the decoction in bags, then press out all the liquid by placing the bags under a press. If you have no press, squeeze them with your hands; but as the force thus applied will probably be insufficient, it will be necessary to add to the residue about a gallon of water; let it then be well stirred up and mixed together, and then proceed to press it as before. Then strain all the liquid through a very fine sieve, and place it in the saucepan, which must first be carefully cleaned, and add,

Sugar (of good quality and free from acidity).....	40 lbs.
Honey of the best quality.....	8 "

Boil the whole, taking care to skim it, to the consistence of a syrup of the specific gravity of about thirty-five degrees. The quantity of syrup thus yielded, should be about five gallons. In the absence of a syrup-meter, five gallons of water can be placed in the saucepan, and its depth measured by a stick, which will give the proper consistence of the syrup. A certain quantity of the syrup should be put up in a vase, to have it always ready to pour back into the saucepan. Should the syrup threaten to boil over, care must be taken to moderate the fire.

Just before the syrup is ready, pass the scum through a very fine sieve, and replace it in the saucepan.

When the syrup is cold, add the alcoholic maceration or infusion; after having filtered it, mix up the whole until the agglomeration is perfected, then put it up in bottles, and cork them.

This syrup can be kept many years if deposited in a cool place.

None but the best possible drugs should be used, and it is very important to pulverize them at home, in order to be sure that they have not received any alteration.

Those who have not the means of making this medicine might unite together and make it in common: this would economize both time in the preparation of the medicine, and money in the purchase of drugs.

### PRESCRIPTIONS.

Man, when in a morbid physical condition, should possess sufficient resolution to submit to the rules which nature prescribes for his cure.

This syrup must be taken as nearly as possible in conformity with the prescription, if prompt and salutary effects are expected to result from its administration.

### GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

During the administration of this medicine, should a sense of weakness ensue, it need occasion no alarm, for it is generally in this condition that nature labors most effectually to repair internal disorders. Strength will return, on the restoration of health and the disuse of the medicine, with astonishing rapidity. Nor should a sense of hunger, under the same conditions, excite any apprehension—it is often well to resist this craving as much as possible, especially in chronic maladies. Ten or fifteen days of severe regimen will frequently lead to surprising results, and will often suffice to cure maladies, which had previously been deemed hopeless.

For the first few days this syrup allays hunger to such a degree, that nourishment can readily be dispensed with; the return of appetite generally indicating the commencement of convalescence. It promotes sleep in the early stages of its administration, and restores it to its normal condition as recovery begins.

As soon as it is taken, it imparts confidence in the idea of existence, by removing that state of prostration which is attendant on so many maladies.

If nausea is sometimes experienced on taking it, this is caused by the presence in the digestive canal, of food, or perhaps worms which must be voided. A feeling of repugnance is then experienced toward the medicine, but this is dispelled as soon as it has operated as an aperient.

Its laxative effects are very mild and gentle. It causes no colic, except at the commencement of its use, and then only in a slight degree. In such cases, half the usual dose will usually be found sufficient to remove the pain. It is a peculiarity of this medicine, that in small doses, it checks the purgative effects attendant on its use.

In a constipated state of the bowels, its purgative effects can only be obtained by taking large doses in rapid succession, especially in chronic cases, and these must be continued until the desired result is obtained.

Lastly, this syrup supplies the animal economy with all the necessary materials to restore our organs to a perfect normal condition. Still it is powerless over disorganizations where nature has lost her sway, for we cannot pretend that it imparts the gift of immortality. It can only prolong life to its just limits, for nature has her own immutable laws, which admit of no exception.

# GENERAL PRESCRIPTIONS;

*Derived from observations made on the necessities prescribed by nature in a morbid condition.*

During the use of this syrup, and for ten days afterwards, the following regulations should be observed:

1. The patient should keep himself very warm, (so that the body should always feel warm,) because cold checks the secretions, and consequently the elaborations of our animal machine. Warmth and diet are the first conditions demanded by nature, when in a diseased condition.

2. Abstain from every kind of acid, astringent, coffee, tea, chocolate, milk, fruits and all sorts of raw vegetables.

3. Only drink water, and that not too cold.

4. Do not take this syrup earlier than at least seven hours after meals, unless in a case of urgency, or where the disease takes too rapid a development, or unless the digestive powers are strong.

5. Persons troubled with weak digestion, will do well, on first taking the syrup, to allow a sufficient interval to elapse, to secure as far as possible a complete depletion of the stomach before using the medicine. Persons affected with chronic maladies should take very light food for their last meal, and at as early an hour as possible, so as to be able to experience a sensation of hunger at the time when they take the syrup, which will prevent them from rejecting it.

6. Persons who vomit on taking the syrup should immediately take another dose, and so on until the vomiting ceases. Should the malady be of that class in which the digestive organs are in such a state of disorganization that nothing can be digested, the patient should then take very small doses, which should be gradually increased to the quantity of a full dose.

7. No hesitation should be evinced in making it operate very purgatively in the commencement of its administration, especially in chronic cases. I cannot too frequently repeat, that weakness affords a favorable condition for nature to repair her disorganizations, and that it disappears as soon as appetite returns, and the usual course of diet is restored.

8. The dose is a soup-spoon well filled, in a glass of lukewarm water. It may sometimes be taken pure without inconvenience, but the former mode is generally preferable.

9. The potion may be doubled without danger, but this should only be done where time is not allowed for the usual mode of treatment, and where digestion proceeds properly.

10. As a general rule, the dose should be repeated every hour.

11. The time at which this syrup ought to be taken, is indicated by the nature of the malady, which is more or less intense, and to which more or less time is necessary. Those who have once used it thoroughly will be able afterwards to regulate its administration without difficulty.

12. It is frequently advisable to rub the bowels with the hand. When a part feels uneasy, it should first be rubbed gently and the friction afterwards increased progressively. This process greatly facilitates the secretions. I learned it from a tribe of savages, who usually employ this remedy to cure all their diseases.

13. Warm baths of soft water are often very useful in many diseases,

as they facilitate the secretions, which are frequently of the highest importance in assisting the efforts of nature.

14. Woollen clothing and covering are preferable to all others. They are lighter and afford a gentler and more suitable warmth for the sick, than any other material.

15. The apartments of persons laboring under pulmonary complaints ought not in winter to be heated with coal, the gas of which is very pernicious, especially in this description of maladies. (Observation made in New York.)

16. In diseases accompanied by intense thirst, a quarter or half a spoonful can be taken in a glass of water whenever a desire to drink is experienced. In these cases, the use of the syrup must be continued until the thirst has entirely disappeared.

17. It is proper, after taking this medicine, especially in cases of chronic diseases, where it is necessary to pass some days without food, to resist the calls of hunger on the last day, as far as possible, without however enduring too much uneasiness. By way of repast, whenever appetite is felt, resort may be had to a spoonful of pure syrup which will be found excellent, until the sense of hunger grows too keen. In many cases, on the first day of the administration of the medicine, appetite is sometimes felt, or a general uneasiness and desire to sleep; sometimes an unwillingness to take it, caused by the food which it has encountered in the stomach—the whole depending on the state of disorganization which prevails. But on the following days, the course of diet prescribed, is submitted to without an effort, and the administration of the medicine excites no repugnance.

18. It is of the highest importance during the use of this syrup, to abstain from everything else; otherwise potions may be taken, without suspicion on the part of the patient, that will counteract all the effects of the syrup.

#### NOURISHMENT

*(Not to be taken before two hours after the last dose) to be used during the administration of the syrup, and which ought to be continued, especially in chronic diseases, as long as possible.*

Panado (a gruel made of the crust of bread well baked, a little butter, salt, and water sufficient to boil it for an hour, and reduce it to the condition of a thin gruel)—I know of no better nutriment for invalids in a state of convalescence. But I fear that in the United States, where bread is not well baked, this preparation can rarely be well made. Bread made in the French style, should therefore, if possible, be procured for this purpose. Stale bread is preferable.

The panado might be replaced by a gruel of Indian meal, in which might be mixed a little butter or sugar. This should be boiled for at least an hour, and ought not to be made too thick. Rice, ground, or even in the grain, might be used instead. Other substances might be used instead of those which I have designated, but care should be taken at first to select those which are the least solid, as it is very important not to fatigue the digestive mechanism, which should be carefully tended, as it is frequently in a weak condition. As a general rule, nourishment is proportioned, not to the quantity of food that we receive, but rather to the amount that has been well digested. Strength is gained during the period of convalescence, by subsisting on a light diet, and the solidity of the food should be increased as the digestive organs recover their healthy condition.



## PREScriptions

*For spontaneous indispositions of minor importance, but which frequently lead, when neglected, to serious diseases.*

One or two doses taken at night, after retiring to bed, are usually found sufficient to restore health on the following day. Still I would advise persons who use it for the first time, to take on the following morning, doses enough to make it act as a purgative. If, on the contrary, the health should not be entirely restored on the following morning, it should be continued throughout the day, until the patient feels quite well; but should the feeling of sickness remain, the prescriptions directed in cases of severe spontaneous diseases should then be followed.

## PREScriptions

*For severe spontaneous diseases.*

The patient should take a dose every hour until he feels quite well, which generally happens as soon as the medicine has acted very purgatively. Then if the patient finds himself somewhat exhausted, the medicine must be administered in smaller quantities, and at longer intervals, or even discontinued entirely for some hours. A dose should always be taken at about 10 o'clock at night, and the patient should also have it administered whenever he feels thirsty. If the complaint has not entirely disappeared, the medicine must be given every hour till the patient feels quite well, and his appetite returns. On the first day, he should take a panado at from 12 to 2 o'clock, in the evening the syrup should be resumed, and on the following morning, he should take several doses. Should the syrup not allay his appetite, he should have a panado at 10 o'clock in the morning, and another at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a dose in the evening, and one or two in the morning. Should his strength return, more solid food may gradually be taken, and the use of the syrup may be discontinued.

If entire convalescence should not be effected in two days, the malady must be regarded as being complicated with some chronic difficulty, and the proper prescriptions in such cases must be followed.

## PREScriptions

*In cases of chronic maladies and indispositions, for persons who are sufficiently strong to work, who support themselves by manual labor, and who cannot adopt a strict regimen.*

1. Never dine later than 2 o'clock P. M.
2. Abstain from indigestible articles of food, (Pres. G. No. 2.)
3. Drink nothing but water.
4. Always bear in mind, that the syrup should be taken at least seven hours after eating. Always keep the body warm, and frequently read over the general prescriptions, in order to become familiar with them.

As it is proper, when this syrup is first taken, to make it act very purgatively, while at the same time, the necessities of exertion must be satisfied, persons who are occupied, away from home, through the week, should wait until Saturday evening and Sunday to take the syrup in sufficient quantity to operate as a free laxative. Those who stay at home, should commence as soon as possible.

On the first day, the patient should dine as lightly as possible, in order to have a good appetite at the time when the first dose is taken, which must be, after going to bed.

On the second day, sufficient must be taken, in hourly doses, commencing as early as possible, to make the remedy operate as a free laxative. A repast may be taken two hours after the last dose, but not later than 3 o'clock P. M. If food can be dispensed with, it will however be preferable. About 10 o'clock at night a full dose must be taken, or even two, if possible, in one glass of water.

On the third day, the syrup must be taken very early, two doses at a time, in one glass of water, and the patient must breakfast two hours afterwards.

It must be remembered that the syrup should not be taken sooner than seven hours after eating, and that it is always very important to take it in the evening, night being the time when its operation is most beneficial, owing to the gentle warmth of the bed, and the period of seven or eight hours, in which nature is left entirely at liberty. The importance of leaving the digestive mechanism in a state of repose cannot be too forcibly urged on the mind. It is indeed, the condition of a speedy cure.

Every day the same regimen must be followed, the medicine being taken in the morning and evening, and made to act purgatively as frequently as circumstances will allow.

If possible, the patient will do well to take warm baths of soft water from time to time. They should be taken, as far as possible, fasting or at least four hours after having eaten. A bath may be taken immediately after using the syrup.

Aliments of too nourishing or of indigestible character, should be abstained from, and the appetite should always be kept under control.

The course here prescribed is much longer in duration, and requires a much larger quantity of syrup, than where a strict diet is observed.

When the disease is too protracted, the medicine may be for a time discontinued; thus it may be taken for two weeks, then left off for the same period, and subsequently recommenced until a perfect cure is ensured.

#### PREScriptions FOR CHRONIC DISEASES.

On the first day, the patient will take a light dinner at 1 o'clock, if he has any appetite. At 10 or 11 o'clock at night, after retiring to bed, he will take a dose. But should he suffer much pain and have no appetite, he will commence at once (if he has taken nothing beforehand) to take this medicine every hour. He will remain in bed as long as possible. If he is up, he will take as active exercise as circumstances will permit, and may even resort to manual labor, if sufficiently strong.

On the third and fourth day, he will manage to take nothing except the syrup, which he can readily do, and on the fifth also, without much difficulty. Care must be taken all this time to secure the full laxative operation of the remedy, and when a sense of fatigue ensues, the dose must be either diminished, or discontinued for some hours. Nothing, however, must be taken to drink except the syrup, as much diluted as may be desired.

On the first day of the return of appetite, endeavor must be made to resist it by taking a dose either pure or mixed with water. As soon as food is resumed, the patient must continue, as long as possible, to restrict himself to a panado, to be taken between 12 and 2 o'clock, sufficiently strong to satisfy his appetite. Two doses must be taken in

the evening, and as many doses as possible the next day, until 10 o'clock or noon.

Should the appetite become too strong to resist, the patient may be allowed to take some very light aliment at 10 o'clock A. M., and at 2 o'clock P. M. Two doses must be taken in the evening, and three in the morning at 6, 7, and 8 o'clock.

Every third day the patient will take only one meal at 2 o'clock; he will take syrup enough to make it act as a free purgative, commencing very early in the morning, and finishing at noon. Few chronic diseases will resist this treatment, if the prescriptions are carefully followed. Those patients who are not entirely cured, will be at least so far recovered as to feel sure of a speedy cure. Should any feel no better, it must be ascribed to the fact that they have taken it too late, or that it has been improperly administered. The rigor of the prescriptions is for the most serious diseases; they may be modified in cases of less importance. The effect produced will be a sufficient guide in this respect for the patient.

An invalid is but a child who needs direction, and whose caprices and desires are often diametrically opposed to the treatment which is proper for his complaint.

#### PREScriptions FOR THE COMPLAINTS OF CHILDREN, EVEN OF THE TENDEREST YEARS.

Fathers of families, it rests with you to preserve your children always in good health, and even to correct in them those vices of disorganization which are, perhaps, hereditary.

As soon as a child is taken sick, whether nourished from the breast, or with other food, all nutriment must be discontinued for three or four hours, if circumstances and the nature of the disease will permit. Because, in a case of extreme sickness, it would be necessary to administer the medicine at once without hesitation, even immediately after eating. By extreme sickness, I mean a case where the pain increases rapidly, and the child is in danger. The use of the syrup must only be discontinued when the child is entirely recovered. Then, about an hour and a half after the last dose, he should receive a light panado, which, if it can be substituted for milk, is far preferable.

An ordinary dose (a large spoonful in a glass of water) should be prepared, and the child should receive as much of it as he likes to take, in a tea-spoon. As soon as quiet repose is obtained, he should be left, and on awaking, some more of the syrup should be given him. Children laboring under a chronic disease should have their rest regulated, and the syrup should be given them, in place of milk, during the night. They should receive food only during the day, and this might be managed, without difficulty. Let them be fed until 6 o'clock in the evening—they can then take the syrup at 10 o'clock, and also whenever they wake during the night. On the following morning they can receive food from 8 o'clock until 6 in the evening.

In case the child is weaned, the same treatment will be pursued as for adults, except that the dose must be graduated; thus from two to five years, the dose is one quarter, from six to nine one half, from ten to fourteen from three quarters to a whole dose. The medicine may readily be graduated by observing the purgative effects which it ought to produce, and these should never be neglected.

The younger the patient, the speedier the operation of the remedy; a circumstance which proves that in infancy there are no accumulated



disorders, and that nature is then very active in repairing the derangements of the animal mechanism.

### CHOLERA.

*Prescription given by me to only one cholera patient, whose sufferings disappeared as soon as he took the first few doses, and whose health was restored in a few days.*

As soon as a person is attacked by cholera, he must be put in bed, if possible, in woollen coverings, and must be kept as well wrapped up as possible.

A dose must be given him each time in a glass of warm water, and must be repeated as frequently as practicable, until the pain has entirely disappeared, and the warmth of the body is restored. Then the covering should be gradually diminished in quantity, only leaving sufficient to keep the patient warm. If sleep should then ensue, the patient should be left alone; but should his rest be agitated and unquiet, a dose must be given hourly in a glass of lukewarm water, until it acts very purgatively, and the patient becomes fatigued. Then smaller doses must be given, or the remedy should be discontinued for some hours; and on resuming it, the patient should take it at longer intervals, as his necessities may require. Afterwards the regimen should be adopted which is directed in the case of spontaneous maladies, during convalescence.

### YELLOW FEVER PRESCRIPTION.

As soon as sickness is felt, the patient should at once take the-syrup, even though it be immediately after eating, and the doses should be repeated as often as possible during the commencement. The vomitings will soon be calmed. If the medicine has been taken, while fasting, a contrary result will be produced. If food has just been received, vomiting will only continue until the stomach is empty, and the syrup is allowed to pass freely into the digestive canal, and produce its purgative effects. As soon as the alarming symptoms have disappeared, the prescription should be followed, which is directed in cases of serious spontaneous diseases.

Though I have never treated persons attacked with this malady, I feel certain that it may be ranged under the class of serious spontaneous acute diseases. I estimate things by their analogies, and I am rarely deceived in my prognosis relative to the nature of diseases. All rest on this one principle; that the disorders of our frame are produced by derangement of the digestive organs.

### PRESCRIPTION IN CASE OF SEA SICKNESS.

As soon as the patient vomits freely, without feeling a desire for food, he may almost always be assured that his nausea will soon disappear. It would therefore be useless, in such cases to take the syrup.

But if, on the contrary, painful vomitings are experienced, accompanied by general uneasiness, rendering life insupportable, take the syrup immediately, and follow the prescription for slight spontaneous diseases. The patient will feel better after taking the first dose, the pains and vomitings will soon cease, and he will recover his apparently lost energies.

If the patient is a person habitually troubled, when on land, with indigestion, it will be well to continue the use of the syrup, having once resorted to it, sufficiently long to correct that difficulty.

In my last voyage from Havre to New York, I gave my remedy to several of the passengers who felt its good effects as soon as they had taken it, but its operation was most remarkable in the case of my servant's wife, who was suckling an infant of two months old. She experienced the most acute suffering caused by continual vomiting. Her milk had entirely disappeared. I gave her some syrup, the pain and vomiting ceased at once, and her milk returned almost immediately, though the ship was then tossing about under a heavy gale.

### PREScription IN CASES OF POISONING.

As soon as the patient feels that he has been poisoned, he should take the syrup as often as he can, until the pain has entirely disappeared, and the prescription for serious spontaneous diseases should then be followed.

I have only had four or five cases of this description; these have always been perfectly cured in a very short space of time. The pain and vomiting have yielded to the first few doses.

It is incumbent on me in the first place to establish all the results that can be obtained from my discovery.

1. As soon as it is taken, it arrests the progress of the disease, unless the patient is laboring under some disorder in which nature is powerless. This, however, rarely happens, if the patient is attended to, as soon as he is attacked.

In almost all spontaneous maladies, where the medicine is at once resorted to, convalescence takes place in from 24 to 48 hours, unless the disease is complicated by the presence of some chronic derangement. (I regard the patient as convalescent, when his pain ceases and his appetite returns.) Those who do not experience this result after the lapse of two days, may take it for granted that they are affected by a disorder which nature requires a certain prolonged period to repair, (such, for example, as cerebral fever;) but still they will feel so much improved that they may safely promise themselves a speedy cure.

Convalescence, when no act of imprudence is committed, is very rapid; a few days sufficing, usually, to restore the lost strength and sometimes to increase it beyond its original amount. When I speak of spontaneous maladies, I presuppose that the patients were in good health shortly prior to the attack, and that they have tried the usual remedies prescribed by physicians in such cases, such as bleeding, leeching, vesication, sinapisms, lotions, &c.; a host of mutilations, in vogue for the cure of diseases. I will say nothing at present of the mass of medicaments, which are frequently as various as the physicians who prescribe for the same disease.

Cholera and yellow fever will, I hope, be henceforth regarded only as severe acute diseases, which need inspire no great alarm, if treated in time. We shall only have to dread, in cholera, those cases which prove almost instantly fatal; but as this disease generally gives warning of its approach by some preliminary symptoms or cholérine, it will be easy to check it, by attending to these as soon as they are felt. In the yellow fever, I believe its effects will be so marked, that very few patients will succumb to that disease. I have many reasons that serve to fortify me in this opinion. My conviction is so strong, that I would almost venture to guarantee a cure in every case, although I have never tested the effects of the remedy on this disease.

" I have treated many cases of cholera at New York and one at Paris; they were all cured in the space of a single day. I have had but a single case of cholera, which like all other spontaneous maladies, was cured by my remedy. The patient experienced relief from the first dose, and very soon recovered his health.

I arrived last year, in the commencement of the month of July, at the city of New York. I there met with the cholera, which we had seen, and learned to treat, in Europe. I had brought with me on my arrival 600 bottles of syrup. I did all in my power to obtain cholera patients, but in vain. I was unable to speak the language, and found myself, without a single acquaintance, in the midst of a city, where every man is completely absorbed in the pursuit of business. I deeply regret that I was unable to profit by the opportunity presented for the use of my remedy, for it does not satisfy me to feel convinced of what the result would have been; facts must be adduced in support of my convictions, though I believe that its results would have been successful without an exception. So strong is my conviction in reference to this subject, that I will undertake to support it by a pledge of part of my fortune. I think I can with safety affirm that sea-sickness, disorders of the digestive organs, occasioned by the continual motion of the vessel, which also produces continual heart-burn, will be readily cured, or at least, much alleviated. I say alleviated, because there are persons who go to sea, while laboring under chronic maladies, which must be removed in order to obtain a satisfactory result; but at least, before attaining this result, they will cease to experience the pain and the disgust with life, which render sea voyages so painful to many. They will have an excellent opportunity, if they desire to take the trouble, to effect a complete restoration of health.

I confirmed my opinion of its efficacy in sea-sickness, principally during my last voyage. I gave it to several of the passengers, who recovered immediately, and very soon enjoyed an excellent appetite; but its application was most remarkable in the case of my servant's wife, who had a child of two months old at the breast. Several days after our departure, she was, for a long time, very sick with vomiting, and her supply of milk was insufficient to satisfy the wants of her infant. I gave her some syrup—the vomiting disappeared, and the milk returned almost immediately. I had previously, with the aid of the syrup, cured this woman of a severe gastritis, and of a disease peculiar to females, from which she had suffered for ten years.

In chronic complaints, whatever nature can effect, will be obtained by allowing her to carry on her own operations undisturbed, for a sufficient period to produce a reorganization, which will always be in proportion to the disorders existing in the animal mechanism. Hence it is important in convalescence to use every necessary precaution, in order to give the organs which have been affected sufficient time to recover their original strength. We can, by comparing our external with our internal disorders, appreciate to some extent the nature of the latter. How long a period is often found requisite, to restore to a wounded part, even after it has been healed, the strength which it originally possessed? Just in proportion to the existing degree of disorganization, the part which has been affected will long remain very sensitive, and will require very great care in order to restore it to its original condition. In my opinion, our internal disorders should be subjected to the same laws. We should no more abuse the chemical laboratory of our system, than we should an arm or a leg which has not yet

recovered its strength. Nature labors diligently, but she is frequently unable to restore certain lesions to their primitive condition.

By the term chronic diseases, I understand, in general, those which have resisted the various kinds of medical treatment in vogue, and which nature has not cured in the period commonly assigned for that purpose. For instance, a cold or an attack of diarrhœa, after a month's duration, passes into the chronic state. In addition to these cases, are those which naturally extend through a long period.

Chronic diseases, where nature has not yet lost her power of action, can generally be cured in about a fortnight, by the adoption of a rigorous diet. But if at the end of this period the pain has not entirely disappeared, and the patient fails to find himself entirely convalescent, or at least, decidedly better, nature must be considered powerless, and the disease consequently incurable. If there is a visible improvement, a perfect cure will soon be effected by practising the necessary perseverance.

In chronic diseases, too much importance must not be allowed to external appearances. I have often seen patients who had been given up, and whose death was daily expected, revive, and regain, in a very short time, their usual good health. Nature is more liberal than is sometimes supposed; she frequently overcomes the obstacles which impede her action, so that we sometimes see patients recover in spite of the improper remedies which they adopt. A prudent silence is usually observed respecting those who have died from the remedies which they used. Nature, we say, does all the mischief; and those who have escaped from the shipwreck, must attribute their salvation to the resources of art.

I believe that few diseases would be incurable, if persons would attend to them in time, and avoid aggravating them by a host of remedies which counteract the operation of nature, by augmenting the disorder to such a point that nature becomes powerless to repair it.

Insanity (disease of the brain) is one of the complaints which I believe to be very easy of cure by the aid of my discovery, which should be taken, as far as possible, as soon as the patient is attacked. It is a great error to expect to be able to cure insanity by the application of local remedies. That complaint is like all others—it originates in a peculiar disorder of the digestive organs, which produces disorder of the brain. I have not yet had a case of this kind under my care, since these poor creatures whom it attacks are at once imprisoned as criminals; but I have cured a multitude of diseases of the most chronic description, some of them having lasted 20 years, which were seated in the same part of the system; patients suffering from neuralgic affections of the brain, which threw them, whenever a paroxysm occurred, into a state bordering on madness; many of these were, perhaps, more difficult to cure than most of the disorders which produce insanity.

Pulmonary complaints, which are so common, and which are generally deemed incurable, would be easily cured if attended to in their earliest stages. The time for action must not be delayed until the disease has made such terrible ravages as to deprive you of part of an organ, the normal condition of which is so important to the animal economy. It is shocking to see these poor victims, usually in the hands of men who feel convinced that they must go to the grave, and who accelerate their progress thither by the treatment which they adopt, and the diet which they prescribe. We must never despair, even where the disease seems to be in its last stage. It may require a miracle, indeed, to save the patient in cases of such imminent danger,



but nature alone has the power of working miracles like these. I could cite many examples of what she has been able to effect in such cases, when her operations have been judiciously seconded. God helps those who help themselves. Let us confide in her, and she will save us, without departing from those immutable laws by which her proceedings are governed, and which operate so effectually when left to themselves.

That hereditary malady, which in many families causes the lungs to be attacked sooner than any other part of the system, could easily be checked in its origin, if its first indications were carefully watched and attended to. A cold, in such cases, should never be neglected, how trifling soever it may appear; an active life should be pursued, or if that is impossible, recourse should be had to gymnastic exercises, which are very various in their nature, and some of which can be performed almost without a change of position. Nature demands a life of activity for the animal machine, for it is in this condition that the chemical laboratory best performs its functions. The perfection of its elaborations evinces a strong and robust condition of health. My remedy can be employed in the case of children, even of the tenderest years, and the happiest results will be promptly obtained by its proper and timely use. Thus, a weak constitution, which proceeds from a disordered condition of the body, frequently inherited from the parents, might be converted into a healthy and robust one. Perhaps if an entirely different physical education were pursued, our race might regain its original vigor, and arrive at its full development.

One of the great advantages of my discovery is, that it dispenses with the necessity of pre-occupying the attention by inquiries concerning the nature of the complaint with which the patient has been affected. All that is necessary to know, is that the patient is sick, and then to take immediate measures to check the evil. The complaint will usually be cured in less time than the physicians would have taken to ascertain the diagnosis of the disease—a profound branch of medical science, in which the disorders of our machine, often at such a point as to be irreparable, are allowed to augment. If when they pretend to put their finger on the seat of the disease, they could arrest its progress, the evil would be so much the less, regarded as a question of time. But too often the contrary is the case. On the morrow, or some days afterwards, you are informed that there is a complication of disorders which it is very difficult to cure without aggravating others, and then it too frequently follows that death is the result. Poor nature is abused, and physicians alone are regarded as possessing the gift of healing. What, I ask, should we say to a bootmaker to whom we had sent our boots to be mended, or to a watchmaker to whom we had sent our watch to be repaired, if these artificers, after having severally examined these objects, should say respectively, “Your boot can be mended, I know what it wants,”—“Your watch has a spring out of order, I will return it to you in as good condition as ever,”—and yet, a few days afterwards, should bring back your property to you in shreds and fragments, averring that the more they labored—the more their efforts were directed to the accomplishment of a certain end, the further they seemed to recede from it; that the result of their efforts, was merely to return the work in such a condition that it could be of no possible service to you. We should say, I think, to these good people, “You don’t know your business, or your business is a fraud.” We should at least feel relieved from the necessity of paying them for their pains, if indeed we refrained from demanding damages of them. But with the physician the case is dif-

ferent; he is paid extravagantly, thanked politely for his good offices, and then withdraws until a favorable occasion presents itself for calling in his aid, in order that the patient be allowed to die with all the formalities prescribed by his sublime science!

I believe that my discovery might be successfully applied in the diseases of most of the domestic animals. I have obtained the happiest results from administering it to dogs. I have long desired to try it on horses, and I trust that when the experiment is tried, it will prove successful in the highest degree.

The disorders of animals resemble those of the human race, but with this difference,—that as the former live in a condition more nearly approaching to that of nature, their disorders are less intense, and almost always accidental. They commonly attain the plenitude of their powers, while man is too frequently but an abortion of his species, accumulating disease on disease—a puny weakling compared with the rest of the creation.

The duration of his existence is a striking proof of this fact: before completing a third part of his allotted career, he becomes prematurely feeble. The horse lives six or seven times the period necessary for the attainment of its full growth; the dog ten or eleven times that period. If we cast a glance at the animal kingdom, we are astonished at the comparatively brief duration of our existence.

I address myself to humanity at large, and in particular to you who constitute the laboring class, and whose prosperity consists almost exclusively in the power of conducting your occupations without interruption. A long sickness too frequently proves your ruin, drives your families to despair, and plunges you into the most frightful misery. A chronic illness opens other prospects to your view besides the hospital, for it sometimes proves the termination of your laborious career—a dreadful spectacle, which I know in its full extent, and which has induced me to leave my solitude and invite your attention to a gift which nature offers to your acceptance. Endeavor, then, to estimate its importance; your future prospects and those of your family may depend on it. You, fathers of families, should consider that others have an interest in your existence; you are the support of those to whom you have given being; nature enjoins you to do all in your power for the preservation of yourselves and your children.

With the aid of my discovery, you need dread sickness no longer. You can avoid nearly all the chronic diseases by carefully attending to the spontaneous complaints that at times make the irappearance, and you will thus be able to prolong the duration of your natural powers.

Your earnings henceforth will not pass into the hands of those who too often martyrize instead of curing you. Nature, in such cases, is accused, but she is always stretching out her arms to reach us a plank of safety, that we may escape from the shipwreck, until at last the time which she has prescribed is past, and the powers of animation then disappear.

It would be well for the poor to make arrangements in common, for the manufacture of my remedy, in order that they might thus obtain it cheaper. Money could be saved by the purchase of drugs at wholesale, as well as by making a large quantity of the remedy at the same time.

Mutual benefit associations, the Odd-Fellows for example, might at once begin the work; if they commenced in the neighborhood of New York, I would aid them to the utmost of my power. In each locality there should be a factory, which might serve for several others, if the

place was thinly inhabited, so that the utmost possible economy might be observed.

When all the necessary drugs are abundant, the preparation, valued accordingly, may be turned to good account.

If persons are desirous of regarding my discovery in a serious light, and obtaining from it the most speedy results, on the most economical conditions, the best method of effecting these objects would be, to institute houses of health, where a small number of attendants could take charge of a very large number of patients, and supply them with every necessary convenience.

A sick person should be regarded as an overgrown child, full of caprices and requiring to be controlled by the dictates of good sense. At home he is often an absolute sovereign, no resistance being offered to his will, or his whims; or we find him surrounded by persons recommending a wrong course, always willing to adopt the mode of practice which they have witnessed under similar circumstances, or if by direction they abandon it, they are sure, though unconsciously, to resort to it again.

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### DETAILS RESPECTING MY DISCOVERY, AND AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT IT HAS HITHERTO ACCOMPLISHED.

HAVING been threatened from my childhood with disease of the lungs, and several of my brothers having fallen victims to that complaint, I was apprehensive of sharing their fate, but a very active life combined with a love of the chase, was, I believe, the principal cause to which I owe the prolongation of my existence; still I have always been far from enjoying a condition of robust health, being frequently troubled with affections of the chest, and with almost continual tooth-ache, and a variety of other ailments.

Five severe attacks of acute disease have as many times brought me to the brink of the grave. On the termination of the last, a state of languor ensued which excited my apprehensions, when chance induced me to take this syrup, just as I would have taken the juice of herbs, or any other sudorific. I took it under the most favorable conditions, and to these, though accidental, I am indebted for my discovery, and an established state of health. I always took it eight or nine hours after my last meal, and avoided everything in my diet that could counteract its operation. My health returned as if by enchantment; I never felt so strong before, my tooth-ache left me, my bleedings at the nose, which had previously occurred at least two or three times a week, entirely ceased. In fine, I regained a degree of health to which I had been a stranger, and which I can only attribute to the effects produced by the syrup.

It appeared to me that the principal effect of this medicine was to fortify the digestive organs, and that its laxative and sudorific virtues might correct all the disorders to which our frame is subject. I had long entertained the fixed idea, that in general the derangement of our animal system proceeds, especially, from disorders of the digestive apparatus, and that when this was disturbed, the other portions of the machinery would, in most diseases, partake, in an increased degree, of the same derangement.

I inhabited a country by no means healthy, where severe colds pre-



vail, and a number of other indispositions, attributable to various causes, and among the principal, to continual changes of temperature.

In a space of twelve years I was frequently attacked by these disorders, which however I always checked by a few doses of syrup. It is true that, in some cases, I did not at once receive all the benefits which I anticipated. On such occasions I adopted a strict diet, and immediately regained my health. I occupied much of my time in endeavoring to discover the most efficacious mode of administering the remedy.

I applied it to cure the diseases of my dogs, and I found that it uniformly answered the purpose in a very short time.

I induced many of my friends to try it when they were sick, and they were always speedily cured by its use.

It was a long time before I understood the true mode of applying it. Whenever an opportunity occurred I tried experiments, often at the expense of my health, and continued them until I felt convinced that my observations were correct.

I returned to France in 1841. After 21 years of absence I had to encounter a cold, humid climate, and to change a very active for a very sedentary life; yet with the exception of a single day, during which I was confined to my bed by an attack of intermittent fever, which has not since re-appeared, I can truly say that I have not had a day's illness for twenty-one years.

It was in France that I learned best how to appreciate the importance of my discovery; I was then living in the country, at Gravelle, near Havre. I employed my servants, during their leisure moments, in manufacturing my syrup, which I gave to the sick of my neighborhood. I effected cures which excited my surprise. These good people, singularly enough, would never apply to me, except when they were given up as hopeless, although they were all convinced that whatever I did for them was often more than disinterested.

I had addressed several physicians of my acquaintance, to induce them to engage in using my discovery, promising to place it at their disposal on condition that they would bring it into general use, and offering to show them, as I readily could, the proofs of its value. I have found them always the same opponents of progress. The physicians of our day have made no advance since the days of Molière. I am convinced, that in France, where I published my discovery, there is not a physician to be found, who has used it, on a single occasion, conscientiously and in good faith.

I did not suppose that one day I should have the courage to disseminate, personally, the knowledge of my discovery, and to fight single-handed against so powerful a body as the faculty, protected by laws of the most rigid feudalism, and stupid and conceited with the importance of their irresponsible duties, which render them potent assassins (for they can kill you, whether through ignorance or design, without being accountable to any one.) They have constituted themselves demi-gods in the eyes of the vulgar. They have usurped the place of nature. They pretend, or rather they wish to make us believe, that they can conquer nature, and guide her at their will. Nature, in their eyes, is but a cruel stepmother, who would soon have destroyed the human race, had *they* not been on hand to prevent her. Mankind, in every age, have wished to appear something more than mortal, sometimes under one shape, sometimes under another. When, then, will humanity have philosophy enough to shake off the disgraceful yoke, which degrades the human mind, and impedes its free career in the path of progress?

A circumstance which occurred in 1847, induced me to forego for a

time, my decided preference for solitude and tranquillity. For some time I had observed the disgraceful traffic carried on between the majority of physicians and the venders of drugs; the former prescribing for their patients the most expensive medicaments, and in the largest quantity, and directing them to be procured of some particular druggist as preferable to any other, and the latter charging the highest possible price, and paying over a handsome commission to their accomplices. Had this knavery been practised only on the rich, the evil would have been far less; but what shocked me, was to see the poor workmen its victims. Without regard to their miserable condition, they were compelled to spend for a single prescription, which frequently did but aggravate the disease, the fruit of two or three days' labor. This mode of speculating on human misery disgusted me; and it was then that I asked myself whether my important discovery was doomed to die with me. I at once made a firm resolve to do all in my power to communicate to humanity a knowledge of my discovery, in order that my fellow-beings might receive the benefits it afforded, even though I should sacrifice all my fortune in the task.

In France I encountered obstacles which were almost insurmountable. I set out for Paris; announced myself to M. Francis Arago, our great astronomer, and perpetual secretary of the Academy of Sciences. I knew the nobility of his character, and his progressive spirit, from the intimate relations which had existed between two of his brothers and myself. I therefore felt emboldened to communicate to him the knowledge of my discovery. I found that he was sick, but he received and listened to me with interest. I told him of my discovery, and informed him that the object of my journey to Paris, was to make applications of it, under the observation of persons occupying such a position in the scientific world and in public consideration, that their approval might be regarded as a guaranty of its success. M. Arago replied that the constant demands on his time prevented him from attending to any other subjects than those in the line of his legitimate pursuits—that I had only to present my discovery to the medical faculty, which was alone competent to decide on its merits. On my remarking that the faculty would never recommend a discovery that would render their services unnecessary, M. Arago observed, that the remark was correct, and told me that there was but one means of attaining my object, which was by preparing a memoir on the subject, which he promised to present to the academy. I replied that I would at once commence it, but as I had the honor of his personal acquaintance, I desired to sustain my discovery by a pecuniary guaranty to the academy. M. Arago approved of my proposition. Some time afterwards, I returned to the observatory, but finding M. Arago absent, I left my memoir with one of his nieces (together with a hundred shares in the Havre and Rouen Rail Road, which had cost me 70,000 francs,) and requested her to hand the papers to her uncle, stating, at the same time, that I should return the following day. Early the next morning, I called on M. Arago. He was sick, and I was unable to see him; he returned to me the 100 shares which accompanied my memoir, by the hands of his niece, who remarked to me, with a somewhat indignant air, that her uncle was unable to comprehend the meaning of those shares. I told her, but in vain, that they were inseparable from a memoir which I presented to the Academy of Sciences. I could not make myself understood. I then thought that M. Arago had not had sufficient time to read my memoir, a supposition which explained his eagerness to return the 100 shares which he might possibly have regarded as a bribe. I concluded my memoir thus: "I have placed in the hands of M.

Arago, 100 shares in the Havre and Rouen Rail Road, which cost me 70,000 francs. If you, gentlemen, are convinced that the panacea which I submit for your examination fails to produce the effects which I ascribe to it, M. Arago can dispose of these shares, as he shall deem best for the service of humanity; for my enterprise has no other motive than the welfare of mankind, and to that cause I should desire this pledge to be consecrated."

Disappointed at being obliged to take these shares before obtaining a favorable solution, the thought occurred to me to place them in the hands of the Secretary of the Institute, furnishing him at the same time with about 20,000 doses of my panacea, in order that its virtues might be immediately tested. I found M. Payagar. I informed him of what had occurred between M. Arago and myself, and I begged him to have the goodness to receive these shares. I had much difficulty in inducing him to do so, though I told him that I would absolve him from all responsibility. I returned a few days afterwards to the Secretary's office, to ascertain when it was probable that my memoir would be presented to the academy. I saw M. Payagar, who told me that M. Arago had charged him very explicitly to return me my shares, that the Academy had no need of any pledge, that a conviction was all that they required. In spite of all opposition, I was forced to take back my shares, but in doing so, I told M. Payagar that they would be always at the disposal of the academy, and that I would deposit them at the office of the Havre and Rouen Rail Road Company in Paris, where they remained until my departure to America. My memoir was read on the 5th of July, 1847, by M. Arago, at the Academy of Sciences. I went to see him the next day; he received me with much amenity, and told me that he had had great difficulty in nominating a commission to pass upon the merits of my discovery. I then inquired of whom the commission was composed. He replied that he did not know, that I could learn at the office of the Secretary, but that they were all physicians. I started with surprise, and could not conceal my apprehension that these gentlemen would never give my discovery a trial; a contingency of which I had expressed my fears in my memoir. I said, "I will not attempt, gentlemen, to disguise the difficulties which beset the work that I propose to undertake; but the interest of humanity, which is the sole object of my attention, will enable me to surmount them. I know how many interests will combine to ensure the defeat of my project; even those who profess to favor and to value it, will use every effort to depreciate and ruin it. I know that it has a strong party to contend against, but I rely on experiment, which I know will not belie the statements I advance, and on the good sense of philanthropists, which will resist every influence that would retard the welfare of humanity. Experience is a great teacher, destroying the most plausible theories, when they cannot stand the tests which it presents; yet it is in experience that I place all my hopes for the success of this important discovery."

I went to the Secretary's office, where I learned that my commission was composed of Drs. Dumeril, Serre and Andral. M. Payagar advised me to call on M. Dumeril in preference to the others, as the most independent man of the three. I supposed that MM. Serre and Andral had already judged my discovery without any other form of process. I found M. Dumeril at dinner; he was remarkably polite; he left the table and led me into his office, and addressed me thus, "I am delighted to see you, sir. I understood that you had placed a large sum in the hands of the government as the guaranty of the success of a specific which you have discovered for diseases of the lungs." I replied that my discovery was not a specific, but a panacea—that as he

was not acquainted with the contents of my memoir, I would send him a copy, and would call again the next day. I accordingly repaired to his house, at the appointed hour. My reception by the learned doctor was different from the former one. He received me with a degree of coldness which bordered on rudeness, and thus addressed me, (I use his own words)—“Sir, you present us with a panacea—we don’t know such a thing, nor have we any desire for it. You teach us nothing, for we know all the virtues of the drugs that compose your syrup.” “The fact that you do not know any panacea,” replied I, “is precisely the reason why I present you with my discovery. That you have no desire for it, is what I have always supposed, and what I have endeavored to express in my memoir. As for the knowledge that your art professes to afford, respecting the properties of the roots that compose my panacea, it may possibly do so as regards their individual virtues, but it gives you no information respecting their combination and proportions, and I presume M. Dumeril has sufficient acquaintance with chemistry to know that a substance added to the composition of several others, often effects a change in the properties of the whole mass—that many substances making a combination might have properties diametrically opposite to the same combination made with different proportions.” I added that I did not ask credence on account of my statements, that I based my discovery on facts, that I wished to communicate these facts to the commission, that even before testing the remedy, they might feel such a degree of conviction respecting its merits, as might induce them to use it with confidence. That at the very time at which I was speaking, I had two remarkable cases of cures in Paris. One, the lady of my hotel, who had been sick for two years with one of the diseases peculiar to her sex, and who, after taking my panacea for two days only, had been restored to good health. The other, an old man of seventy-two, who had been suffering some time from the most dangerous form of dropsy, that of the stomach. Two days use of my discovery sufficed to remove the disease, as if by enchantment. That I had met with these patients accidentally in Paris, and that the gentlemen of the commission could in a few hours repair to Graville, my place of residence—that in my own neighborhood, Angouville and Havre, I had made numerous applications of my panacea, always with the most marked success, and that I could give these gentlemen all the information in my power to facilitate their researches.

I received evasive and unmeaning answers, which satisfied me that my illustrious commission, composed of academic physicians, would take no interest in my discovery. What a poor and contemptible idea I then conceived of those whom the world numbers among its celebrities. It is true that we were then living in the times of the monarchy, when the majority of those who rose to distinction, only attained eminence by intrigue, and that jesuitical spirit which seeks to check all progress. True merit was a matter of secondary importance. Appearances were almost always more than sufficient. That love of truth which characterizes true philosophy was the most dangerous quality that a man could possess. My conscience was easy—I had done all in my power to ensure success. I was desirous of avoiding all cause of self-reproach. For a period of about two months I was in Paris, where I lived in a state of complete isolation, my thoughts constantly engaged in devising the best means of attaining the end proposed. Among others which presented themselves, was that of embarking for the United States; still many considerations held me back. The first was, my inability to speak English—an immense difficulty in diffusing a knowledge of my discovery. Another reflection which discouraged me, was that I should perhaps meet with a po-



pulation that would afford me no aid in facilitating my philanthropic enterprise, and who perchance, without giving it a single trial, would tell me, that a panacea is an impossibility, because physicians had told them so. This was the case when Galileo asserted that the earth revolved on its own axis, and narrowly escaped the penalty of death by fire, for daring to utter a truth unknown till then. The discoverer of vaccination was long treated as a fool by his medical colleagues. The great Napoleon smiled when Robert Fulton spoke to him of the application of steam to navigation, considering the thing as impracticable. It is but a few years since electricity was talked of being used for telegraphic purposes—the thing was declared impossible.

How many things considered impossible now exist, and how many discoveries now deemed impossible, will yet be readily achieved. Few men suffer themselves to be guided by right reason—always listening to the assertions of others as if they were oracular responses, and never searching for the foundation of the fact. Poor humanity! she does not perceive, that without knowing it, she is reduced to a state of the most ignoble slavery—that of the intellect.

My voyage to the United States was postponed on account of other considerations, which made me fear that I should fail and become utterly ruined, without attaining my object.

Fettered by the laws of my country, which denied me all means of activity, I yet managed to evade them, without fear of being dragged by the physicians before the tribunals. I found means of propagating my discovery in spite of them. There was no mode of preventing me from publishing the memoir which I had presented to the academy, together with the recipe for my panacea. I printed an edition of several thousand copies, which I sent to the whole Parisian press, to the most eminent men of Paris and of the provinces; nor did I stop here. I furnished it to the principal journalists throughout Europe, and also throughout America, more particularly to the United States. In the latter country, I sent to the principal cities numerous samples, addressed to every postmaster, in order that they might thus be distributed to the most philanthropic press of the place.

There was this defect in my memoir—it was not intended for publication; the prescriptions should have been given more in detail, although on reading them with attention, it was easy to ascertain their meaning and obtain satisfactory results. After distributing my memoir, I returned home to Graville, where I made as much of the syrup as I could, which I intended for the use of my neighborhood and parts adjacent, Angouville and Havre, and also for distribution to all who might apply for it.

I soon received a great number of the most flattering letters from all the departments of France, some complimenting and felicitating me, others asking for my panacea. To these I replied by sending them the receipt for making it, and adding all the information I could communicate, and of which they might stand in need.

Many people manufactured the syrup at their own houses, and wrote to inform me that they had succeeded perfectly, both in the fabrication and application of it. Others had had recourse to druggists, and they, generally, were but little satisfied with the results. I had always cautioned them to be on their guard, as the venders of drugs had an interest in insuring its failure. I had engaged several druggists to compound it properly, promising, on that condition, to send them customers, but I have yet to meet with one who ever made it in a proper manner. There was ill-will on their part; for whoever uses good drugs will always succeed.

The proclamation of the republic in France, induced me for a moment to entertain the hope that we should have such a thing in fact as well as in name. I was soon undeceived when I saw the Jesuits, of every grade—a class which our monarchy had encouraged, and which, under its auspices, had diffused itself through all ranks of society—uniting with their cousins-german, the monarchists of every shade, to effect, by a common effort, the destruction of the republic. The direction of the scheme was confided to the Jesuits, as the only ones capable of conducting their enterprise to a happy termination. Besides, their capacity for the task was indisputable: they brought to its performance as a guarantee of their success, the evidence of a series of centuries consecrated alone to the work of deceiving poor humanity—constantly conspiring against its happiness, and endeavoring to convert man into a mere machine, which they could control at pleasure.

They at once put in practice their famous maxim, that the end justifies the means. Calumny was one of the first weapons which they used; afterwards came falsehood and deception of every description. With arms such as these, they made war on our young republic. Nearly all the members of the privileged classes enrolled themselves under so respectable a flag, notaries, physicians, official clerks, druggists, advocates, attorneys, priests, etc., etc.—all, indeed, who exert a controlling influence over the mass of the population by means of continual relations with it.

From the very birth of the revolution, they began to qualify it, by calling themselves the advocates of order and liberty, or moderate republicans, which, being correctly interpreted, means, men of disorder and tyranny. They were the same who in the time of the monarchy called themselves conservatives; men who had no desire to preserve liberty, but who were anxious enough, had it been in their power, to throw us back to the condition of the 13th century.

All the republicans, notwithstanding the pledges of moderation which they had given, and which they were every day giving, were characterized by them by the epithet "*red*," which, in their vocabulary, signifies bloodthirsty wretches—aye, Robespierres. The term socialist, which, with the republicans signifies an advocate of progress,—in a word, of all that is most conducive to the welfare of society, was perverted by them so as to signify a brawler for the division of property, or the community of goods. They imputed to us doctrines which they promulgated by their emissaries, who professed just the very tenets which they wished to ascribe to the republicans. They sent from all parts of France thousands of agents with well-filled purses, to the national workshops of Paris, for the purpose of corrupting the brave Parisians, endeavoring by their manoeuvres to make them destroy the very work which their own hands had reared. They counted much on the success which they would obtain by employing calumny in achieving their ends, and they accordingly used it without stint or scruple. The watchword was given, and was soon on every lip. It was a hideous spectacle—to see and hear these men, who pretended to practise every virtue, and to possess every talent necessary for the government of others, stoop to the lowest self-degradation, and calumniate those who may justly claim to be regarded as the elite of society, and whose lives are as irreproachable as their position is eminent, calling them assassins, robbers, and imputing to them all that is most despicable and contemptible in humanity.

Those who were in power, were, I think, guilty of a very great omission, in not decreeing at that time, and not having decreed from the institution of the republic, a very severe law against calumny. The Jesuit coalition would then have been immediately disarmed, to the great advantage of public morality. The specious promises which they made to the inhabitants of the country, obtained for them great success in the elections; they promised nothing less to the people, unfortunately too ignorant, than that one man should pay all the debts of France, and that there would then remain sufficient to repay the sum of over a hundred millions of the tax of 45 centimes, and to relieve France from the necessity of paying any taxes for four years. By such manoeuvres as these, they elected their candidates by large majorities. At length, by their hideous intrigues, they procured their own substitution in place of the republicans, and we had the singular spectacle of a republic governed by Jesuits.

The root of liberty must have struck very deep in France, to resist this Machiavelian hurricane. Many men of liberal principles, but lacking sufficient sagacity, were, for a while, snared by the bait; and when the sober second thought had time to operate, they looked with amazement at the precipice at whose brink they were standing. They resolved thenceforth, to reason with their own brains, and resort no more to their wicked advisers. Priests, advocates, official clerks, physicians, apothecaries, &c., &c., are no longer the directors of their actions; or, at least, their usurping influence diminishes every day, and will soon cease to excite the slightest apprehension for our liberties.

After the proclamation of the Republic, my attention was entirely occupied with the affairs of my country, and I had almost ceased to think of my discovery. Yet seeing,

as I thought, certain influences which must for some years retard the progress of our liberties, I believed that I might serve my dear country by promoting the welfare of humanity at large, and disenthraling it from one of the most tyrannical despotisms. Patriotism naturally prompts us to abolish all these detestable despotisms. Feudalism in disguise will continually conspire against the welfare of society, by destroying its physical and moral strength, and bringing man down to a level with the brute. If man did but know how many yokes he must yet shake off, before enjoying the plenitude of his independence! But his ignorance will long detain him in a state of slavery. When we all profess a love for truth, our task will be an easy one. When false principles have long been regarded as truths, and we come, at length, to be undeceived, our minds are in a state of constraint, and it needs great watchfulness to prevent us from falling, at every step, into our original errors.

I required a country where I could freely diffuse a knowledge of my discovery. The United States appeared to me to be the most favorable field for the success of my enterprise, and I commenced to put in action my original idea of 1847, in spite of all the obstacles which forced themselves on my attention.

I accordingly made my preparations, which involved every possible sacrifice, in order to procure the necessary funds for my undertaking. I incurred many useless expenses, which I then deemed requisite for the success of my project.

I sailed for New York, where I arrived at the end of June last year. Knowing that the cholera was raging in the United States, I had brought with me about 28,000 doses of my remedy, in order at once to apply it, should I meet with any cases of cholera. My boxes were detained at the Custom House for more than two months, sometimes under one pretext, sometimes under another, though I asked no favors; and, after paying duties to the amount of more than a hundred dollars, I received my syrup at a time when the cholera had almost disappeared.

Nevertheless, I had made numerous efforts on my arrival, to procure cholera patients. Several physicians, and among them, some who directed the hospitals, were addressed on the subject, but I only received negative answers. I regret deeply that I was unable to experiment more widely than I did with my remedy on this disease.

My hopes were considerably damped on my arrival at New York. Every one predicted that unless I acted the part of a charlatan, and made a great noise, I should fail; and that I might entirely ruin myself, instead of becoming a millionaire. It was in vain I told them that my discovery was entirely philanthropic—that I did not come for the purpose of making a fortune—that I had all that I required in order to satisfy my wishes—that my only aim was to subserve the cause of humanity, by making some public application of my medicine, in order at once to render it popular, by publishing the recipe and the prescriptions. Many laughed at me, and said, "It is unfortunate for you and your discovery, that before coming here you did not understand the popular mind. If you had, you certainly would not have come. You would have succeeded much better, and much more cheaply in France, notwithstanding the obstacles that you had to overcome. The genius of this country is business—nothing but business. A man here is regarded or envied in proportion to his money, while in France, men and things are esteemed for what they are, whatever their lot or their pecuniary value may be. The spirit of the French people is the most advanced in the world, and monarchies with firm and rapid pace on the true path of liberty."

All these predictions were not very flattering, and they caused me many painful reflections. I called to mind the fate of those who had introduced to the knowledge of mankind the most splendid discoveries, and who had too frequently been treated with contempt and ridicule, and regarded as mere visionaries; fortunate, indeed, when popular ignorance contented itself with these pacific demonstrations. Still, I felt reassured when I reflected that a public test of my medicine, for the space of twenty-four hours, would convince the most incredulous.

It was more than a month before I could find a suitable locality for my enterprise. Three vegetable substances which I required were very rare in New York, viz. China root, Aristolochia or birthwort, and the seed-vessels of senna. In spite of all my efforts I was unable to give the public the benefit of my discovery until the month of October.

I had learned that my discovery was sold by private dealers in the United States; at Cincinnati, under the name of "M. Deschamps's Syrup," and in other places, under the most singular denominations. I thought it expedient to adopt all proper measures to facilitate, at the outset, the knowledge of my discovery; and the reason why the price which I put upon it was rather high, was that I hoped thus to realize sufficient profit from the rich, to enable the poor to obtain it on very easy terms. This was what I designed to do in France; but in the United States, where extreme poverty is much less frequent, such a plan was hardly practicable. Still, the poor could have been readily supplied. My efforts would have been seconded, and I think that I should have succeeded, without at the same time having laid an onerous burden on the poor. I should have graduated the price according to circumstances; and this, I think, will be done when my discovery comes into general use. It will be but a small tax which the rich will pay for the benefit of the unfortunate.

In the month of October I published the following circular :-



## IMPORTANT PHILANTHROPIC DISCOVERY.

I have contributed to the cause of humanity twenty years of experience, consecrated to the solution of a problem of the highest importance, which society ought to have solved many centuries ago. Without any great effort of the reasoning powers, it is only necessary to cast a glance at the animal kingdom, in order to become convinced of this truth; that in the disorders of our frame, nature alone is the repairing agent. The question, therefore, which we should endeavor to answer, is this: What are the substances, which, without deranging our physical economy, contribute to the system all the materials necessary to promote its healthy action, after removing the maladies to which it is subject? Centuries have been spent in the investigation of this problem, and I believe, that in its material aspect, a solution has frequently been obtained, but that its application has always been mistaken. It is not in the power of man to impose his will on nature as the law of its action; happy is it for him, if he possesses sufficient good sense to submit himself patiently to the laws of the material universe.

Without pretending to penetrate the secrets of our being, the grand applications of my discovery have naturally led me to the conclusion that all or nearly all the maladies to which we are subject, have their origin in the digestive apparatus. In fact, when we consider that the air which we breathe, and the food which we receive, are the motive powers of the animal machine, that absorption and secretion comprise the whole economy of animal existence, and that the different organs which are charged by nature with these processes, are really infinite, since even the smallest hair that grows upon the body is subject to these laws—with these facts in view, we are readily induced to believe that the normal condition of our frame depends almost universally on the primary processes carried on in the digestive apparatus, which may be regarded as the great elaboratory agent in our animal machine, on which all the other organs are dependent, since to this they owe the primary materials which they receive for their growth and sustenance. Hence, when the digestive organs are in a healthy condition, the whole body will be sound; but on the contrary, if anything is absorbed which is unsuitable for animal existence, or anything omitted which is indispensable to it, the whole organization must necessarily become deranged, giving birth to a train of diseases which vary according to the nature of the injury received by the digestive organs. In the case of those spontaneous disorders which affect various portions of the frame, the digestive organs are almost always affected, and frequently, though apparently healthy, are actually disordered.

In consideration of the inestimable value of health, I venture to flatter myself with the belief that my discovery is one of the most important that has ever been made. For what can be more consoling to humanity than to be able to say, "I need no longer occupy my attention with diseases and disgusting mutilations (to which, in our day, recourse is too frequently had—either 'to kill, or cure?') When attacked by sickness, I can check its progress almost spontaneously; I require no medical guide, I have only to keep warm, and drink every hour, until my sickness disappears, a draught of syrup, containing nothing disagreeable to the taste, diluted in a glass of tepid water; I have nothing to dread in adopting that system of diet which is so necessary to give full effect to the recuperative powers of nature, since this syrup supplies me with a repast, by removing the desire for food."

This syrup is composed of vegetables alone, whose respective virtues it happily combines; it is never injurious when properly administered, it allays as it were spontaneously, the most acute pains, such as the toothache, the stomach-ache, etc. In other disorders, such as brain fever, malignant fever, angina pectoris, etc., it is necessary that it should be made to operate as an efficient laxative, in order entirely to dispel the disorder; but the progress of the disease is checked at the first dose, and the patient generally finds himself better.

In chronic diseases, where nature has not yet lost her powers, (for we can but prolong life to its just limits,) such as disorders of the chest, asthma, diarrhoea, rheumatism, neuralgic affections, etc., it effects wonderful cures. In France, I have cured persons suffering from these maladies, whose recovery was regarded as hopeless by the most eminent physicians.

On children, even of the tenderest years, it produces the most beneficial effects. This need not excite our surprise, since, the younger the patient, the less the opportunity for accumulated disorders, and the greater the chance for nature to recover her powers. By the aid of this syrup, organic complaints, and chronic hereditary diseases may be easily remedied. I am persuaded that by its use, children can readily be made strong and robust. In a country like this, where human life is duly appreciated, immense benefits will result from its adoption. How many children die from the want of timely medical assistance, and from ignorance of the proper mode of treatment, even at the very time when the recuperative powers of nature are the strongest. The system, at this period, is, it is true, easily disordered, but its restoration to health is usually equally rapid. How often have I seen children, one day apparently at the point of death, and the next, perfectly recovered! How much, on the other hand, is necessary to be done, in order to restore an adult to the plenitude of his powers.

It would be a mistake to suppose that this syrup only promoted one species of secre-

tion; that of perspiration is actively affected, and this is one of the principal reasons why it is recommended that the warmth of the body should always be kept up.

Being desirous that the whole family of humanity should receive the benefits of my discovery, I have established myself on the soil of liberty, in order to promulgate the knowledge of its results. My own poor country, still a land of castes and distinctions, refused me this privilege, although I adduced as a guarantee of the truth of my representations, the sum of 70,000 francs which I had expended in my enterprise. I shall speak hereafter of the ignoble conduct of the commission who were entrusted with the duty of making a report on the memoir which I presented in 1847 to the Academy of Sciences at Paris. This commission, composed of Doctors Dumeril, Audral and Serres, found it convenient never to make one, as they had announced to me beforehand through the medium of Monsieur Dumeril, who told me that he wanted no remedy to cure all diseases; that such a thing had never been known, and was an impossibility. Such was the response received from an Academician, one of our medical celebrities, who had scarcely heard of my memoir, with a duplicate of which I presented him, because he was entirely unacquainted with it, and was not present during the sitting at which it had been read by M. Arago.

I call upon the reflecting and conscientious citizens of the United States, who feel desirous of convincing themselves of the value of my discovery, to form themselves into a philanthropic society who shall announce, through the medium of a committee, to be selected from among themselves, the most suitable means of publicly testing the truth of my assertions. For this purpose, I will every month place at the disposal of this society, a hundred bottles of my syrup, (a quantity more than sufficient to restore to health a hundred patients attacked with acute spontaneous diseases.) I will also increase the number of bottles, if, subsequently, the necessities of the sick and destitute require a larger quantity. Pending the formation of this society, a hundred bottles shall be distributed every month, between one and two o'clock in the afternoon of every day, to such applicants in person as will satisfy me that they require my remedy, and will inscribe in a book provided for that purpose, their names and residences, and the nature of the malady under which they labor. I will also give a hundred bottles to be applied to persons attacked by cholera, which shall be delivered on the request of the authorities of the place where that malady exists; such request to be made through the medium of some of the civic officers of the city of New York. For that disease, I shall give a special prescription. I have thus far had seven or eight cases of cholera which have been cured in the course of a single day, and one case of cholera, in which, though the attack had lasted twelve hours, the first few doses served to remove the spasmodic contraction of the limbs, and the patient soon found himself perfectly well. I had long been convinced that its operation would be similar in this to that which it is in all other acute diseases. It arrests the progress of the evil, and gains the necessary time for resuscitating the interior organization, and restoring the mechanism of life to its normal condition.

I have no reason to doubt the universal applicability of my discovery; hence I am persuaded, and ready to insure its effectual operation in yellow fever as well as in all other maladies. What fortifies me in this conviction is, that in all disorders which are accompanied with vomiting, its use is attended with the most striking benefit. A hundred bottles of this syrup will be placed at the disposal of a philanthropic society, or of the principal authorities of the place where this disease prevails. Hitherto, I have invariably given this syrup, as well as my time, to solace the sufferings of humanity. But I desire to continue in possession of means sufficient to extend the benefits of my discovery in the same manner as heretofore. I have finally realized, in France, after enormous sacrifices, a part of my fortune, the fruit of one and twenty years of laborious exertion, devoted to the acquisition of the necessary funds for developing the uses of my remedy among a nation of reflecting men.

There still remains to me my paternal estate, and though I value it highly, I am ready to sacrifice that too, if necessary for the success of my enterprise.

I have opened an office at No. 130 Broadway, at which visitors will find a book, in which those who desire can subscribe their names as members of the proposed philanthropic society. A meeting will be convened, in some locality hereafter to be designated. In the course of a month, probably, sufficient data will be obtained to allow the members of the society to enter on their investigations. I will do all in my power to supply them with the necessary means for attaining the object of their researches, and will make them acquainted with all that I have hitherto done to extend the knowledge and the benefits of my discovery, that they may judge whether the epithet of philanthropic, is appropriate or misapplied. I will also communicate to them certain matters that I could not promulgate in France, but which, nevertheless, are of high importance to the cause of humanity.

I invite all who may do me the favor to call at my office in order to inform themselves respecting my discovery, to inscribe (if convenient) their names and residences, and the nature of the disease for which they desire to use it, in a book which shall be at their disposal for that purpose. Letters, stating the same particulars, can also be sent (post paid) to my office; these will be preserved and remitted to the Philanthropic Society, for the purpose of facilitating its researches.

Each bottle will be accompanied with directions, by which the patient will be enabled to attend to his own case, without other advice. If, however, any one should be

in want of farther information. I am to be found every day at my office from 1 to 3 o'clock, P. M., where I shall be happy to satisfy any inquiries which may be deemed necessary. If inquirers could supply themselves with a French or Spanish interpreter, they would confer on me a great obligation.

I would request all who use this syrup for the first time, to take it in some cases of serious sickness, that they may thus be the better enabled to appreciate all its effects.

L. DESCHAMPS.

No one aided me in my philanthropic enterprise. I met many who endeavored to divert me from my object, and give my plans another direction. They stated, that if I desired it, they would manage the business and would ensure its success. It has always been my impression that these gentlemen were much more devoted to the advancement of their own interests, than the success of my discovery.

I placed myself entirely at the disposal of the public. Every day persons suffering from chronic maladies, called at my office, many of whom were given up by their attending physicians, as incurable. I now considered what course I had better adopt. In chronic maladies, I had to fear that my prescriptions would be disregarded, and that the perseverance requisite for following my directions, would be found wanting. Still, I determined not to be discouraged. I made each patient to whom I gave my remedy, insert his name and residence in a book which I kept for that purpose. I soon felt re-assured when I saw the sick, who had need of a farther supply, returning to my office to complete the cure of their diseases, and complimenting me highly on the results which they had experienced; assuring me at the same time, that they felt so much better, as to justify the certainty of a speedy cure. They overpowered me with expressions of gratitude, but as soon as they had recovered, I saw them no more, and in some cases, I heard of their recovery from other sources.

In the course of the month of December, I felt convinced that impositions were frequently practised upon me. I had detected some individuals in *flagrante delicto*. I was desirous of knowing how far this system of deception had extended, and I therefore dispatched my clerk to the residences of those to whom I had given the syrup. He was thus occupied for four days, and found a number of fictitious addresses.

Indignant at so unworthy a proceeding on the part of those for whose welfare I had labored so diligently, and whom I had always told, that I wanted no expressions of gratitude, but that all I desired was, that they should comply with my prescriptions—that I had required them to inscribe their names, diseases, and residences in a book, for two of the most important interests that humanity has at stake. The first, that in case a commission should be formed for the purpose of publicly testing my panacea, the necessary inquiries could at once be made, and a conviction of its utility be thus obtained, which could ensure for it an open and speedy reception. The second, that if such a commission should not be formed, then, as soon as a sufficient number of persons who had tested my panacea, could be obtained, that they might hold a public meeting and proclaim their opinion of the efficacy of my discovery, which might thus induce a public test of its merits; or at least, the public would thus feel such a degree of confidence in it, as would induce them, without hesitation, to adopt it in all forms of disease.

In spite of all the appeals which I had made to the population of New York, the month of February arrived without my receiving any proposition on the subject of a public test of my remedy. Those who had used my panacea were almost all workmen, most of them very poor, and hence but ill adapted to extend the use of my discovery.

I thought that by continuing this state of things, I should only compromise my important discovery. I desired to recover all my independence, with which I ought never to have parted. I closed my shop, and addressed the following advertisement to the people of New York:

"I believe that I have, for the present, contributed sufficient to the cause of humanity in placing my discovery, for a period of four months, at the disposition of the community, in putting myself entirely at the disposal of the public, in soliciting the formation of a society of respectable individuals for the purpose of conducting the necessary investigations in order to satisfy themselves of the truth of my representations, and the efficacy of my remedy. But as my proposition has not hitherto been accepted, in a single instance, I can no longer consent to lower my valuable discovery to the level of a vile and humiliating speculation on the miseries of humanity. My remedy has been slandered by base detractors, its natural enemies, who, influenced by considerations of private interest, are taking active measures to ensure its failure—a fact which supplies me with an additional motive for abstaining from all appearance of Charlatanism. About three hundred persons have tried my medicine; it has effected remarkable and various cures. I could have obtained numerous certificates of its efficacy, which I could have presented to the public; but such certificates, in my judgment, are of no weight in proving the value of a panacea. It is only from the totality of cases in which it has been employed, that a proper opinion of its merits can be formed, and this can only be pronounced by impartial judges. I shall always hold myself at the disposal of those who may desire to constitute a committee to investigate the subject, in accordance with my former proposal.

L. DESCHAMPS.

"Williamsburgh Cottage, near Peck Slip Ferry."



I consider myself as having fulfilled my mission, in giving humanity the simplest and most attainable methods of self-preservation, in all morbid, physical and many morbid moral affections, the latter being frequently dependent on the former. Let publicity be given to my discovery, that humanity may receive its benefits. I had intended to publish this memoir about the month of March, but I think that the public indifference with which I have been treated, has rendered me somewhat indisposed to exertion.

Williamsburgh Cottage, WILLIAMSBURGH, near Peck Slip Ferry.

## DISCOVERY OF THE VIRTUES OF THE DRAGON'S-BLOOD.

(A PLANT OF THE DOCK FAMILY.)

ABOUT the year 1830, I received from France several boxes of plants; it happened accidentally that there was a seed of the dragon's-blood (*Lapathum Sanguineum*) in the soil around them. The plant had been known to me from childhood, as an excellent remedy in cases of cuts. I took the greatest care of it, and prized it exceedingly. In 1832, I received a severe contused cut in the hand, which bled profusely. I suffered extreme pain. The thought then struck me, to apply the dragon's blood to check the hemorrhage, and reunite the parts. I was astonished to find that as soon as I applied it, the pain disappeared; in a few hours the contusion was no longer visible, the lips of the wound appeared to be perfectly united, and only to require time to render their adhesion secure and permanent. A fact once observed, rarely disappears from my memory, and that which I am about to relate, is of somewhat more recent date than the preceding. Some time after the occurrence just narrated, while on a party of pleasure in the country, my knee-pain was pierced by a thorn. I felt but a little dull pain, at the time, which did not check my activity, but as soon as I went to bed, I experienced the most acute suffering. I applied poultices all night, without deriving from them the least possible relief, my leg was drawn up and became very much swollen. Being unable to sleep; I had time to consider what I could find to alleviate the pain. If I had then known all the virtues of my panacea, I should have used it successfully; though perhaps its effects would not have been so speedy as those produced by the dragon's-blood, as the injury was merely a local one. I recollected the effects produced by the dragon's-blood on my former contusion; and as soon as day broke, I obtained a large number of leaves, which I applied, after bruising them, to the swollen part of my knee. With the first application, the pain ceased; I was able to stretch out my leg, and walk immediately. After having walked all day, my knee was entirely well. How long the thorn remained in my knee, I cannot say, but I often felt it there long afterwards, without experiencing any inconvenience from its presence.

One of my friends received a severe contusion on some varicose veins which he had in the leg, and suffered extreme pain in consequence. He applied a strong compress of dragon's-blood leaves, and was able, immediately afterwards, to walk without difficulty. In the space of four hours every trace of the contusion disappeared, and the limb resumed its original condition. The pain which he had frequently suffered from the varicose veins, entirely subsided, and the limb became stronger than it had usually been. Afterwards, when he felt any weakness produced by his varicose veins, he adopted the same remedy, with the same beneficial results.

One day, while out walking, I accidentally sprained my foot. I returned home at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, unable to walk. I suffered greatly, my foot was much swollen; I applied a strong poultice of dragon's-blood leaves, and was able to walk about all the afternoon. In the evening my foot was quite well.

Pursuing experiment after experiment, I cured by the aid of this plant various kinds of ailments, and hence I concluded that the same result would follow in all kinds of spontaneous external injuries. I applied it to cure the stings of venomous plants and insects, with uniform success. The pain caused by burns was immediately relieved by its application. I have never had an opportunity of using it in very large burns, or at least, if so, I have forgotten it; but I think its effects would be the same, and their rapidity would be proportioned to the severity of the case.

I have tried it in spontaneous rheumatic affections, in external irritations and in swellings, always with the same success. In cases where a thorn or splinter, or other extraneous body has entered the flesh, the application of the dragon's-blood prevents any serious consequences.

I was at the time of these occurrences on terms of intimacy with the principal physicians of the neighborhood; to them I communicated the virtues which I had observed in this plant, and urged them to use it in the hospitals of which many of them were directors, giving them at the same time as many of the leaves as my garden would supply. They almost all treated the proposition with ridicule, and told me that any other plant would have effected the same results. Two, however, promised, by way of complaisance, to use it, but never did so.

However I met with a physician of good sense, a true philosopher, and a man possessed of various rare professional attainments. All his limbs had been paralyzed for twenty years, yet he still continued to practice medicine, and enjoyed a high reputation for the cure of certain complaints. He made his calls in his carriage, his servants carried him to the patient's bed-side. There was still enough strength in his hands to en-



able him to feel the pulse, and to write a prescription. I advised him to make use of the dragon's blood, after giving him the details of the results which I had obtained from its application. He replied, "I have thus far availed myself of all the resources of our art, without having experienced the least alleviation of my sufferings. Since then, I have had recourse to what are called 'old women's remedies,' which are sometimes better than those which our profession prescribes, but still I derive no benefit from them. Our art is yet in its infancy, and I fear that we have entered on a wrong career, which it will be difficult to abandon. The science of medicine should be simplified as much as possible, while we do just the reverse. Society, in vesting us with so great a privilege, without holding us responsible for its exercise, has been blind to its most sacred interests. It has said to us, 'Let medicine be a progressive science, but at the same time, you must live by your profession;' two conditions which are entirely incompatible with each other; for by the term 'live' we understand, at the present day, 'make a fortune as rapidly as possible.' Progress in medicine is the extension of disease, and this is the curse of those who practise the profession.

"Medicine would long since have been on the high road to perfection, if society had imposed on the physician conditions directly the reverse of those which now exist. His fortune would then be derived not from the number of the sick, but from the number of the healthy. Important results would have arisen from this view of the duties of the physician. In the first, there would have been an end of that spirit of rivalry, which prompts every professor of the healing art to present himself to the community as the Hippocrates of his era, to the prejudice of his brethren, whom he too frequently stigmatizes as ignorant pretenders. A continual state of discord prevails, where nothing but harmony ought to exist. Had we desired the progress of our art, we should have sought and found the means of advancing it. At present, the success of a physician rarely depends on his talent, but usually on the appearance he is able to make in the world. Polished manners, a fine carriage, and an introduction to the principal families in the neighborhood, are frequently found sufficient to establish a reputation as the first physician of the place. In a science where quackery is a means of success, artful deception is the great desideratum. The medical faculty of Paris, which is regarded as the most enlightened in the world, justifies my assertion in granting diplomas as health officers to men who are allowed to dispense with all study, and who yet practise medicine throughout France to the same extent as regular physicians, universally receiving the title of doctor, and being invested with the regular credentials of that rank.

Surgery is a science which I revere, and in which great improvements have been made. It is nevertheless a science in which all who practise it should be held responsible for the result of their operations. Yet how often do we meet with persons who have sustained irremediable injuries from the ignorance of their surgeons. The immense influence exercised by professional men over the minds of the people, might be productive of the most beneficial results, if it were only exerted in behalf of the cause of humanity. In their eyes, we belong to a supernatural order of beings, who penetrate the most occult secrets of nature: hence we are every moment overpowered with the most extravagant questions, which too many of us make no scruple in answering with the most complacent assurance. The love of the marvellous is deeply implanted in the human mind. Man prefers that which he cannot understand, and which is shrouded in mystery. When will poor humanity reflect with its own brain, and not with that of others! That simple, sterling good sense which is our safest guide, is almost universally neglected. The custom of believing without investigation, converts us into mere machines, and renders the present era unworthy of the name of a civilized age.

"Medical science, in my opinion, made a retrograde movement in substituting mineral for vegetable remedies. It is true that we have increased the business of the druggist: and we had something at stake in doing so, for vegetable medicine was becoming so popular and simple as to interfere with our ministrations. But we have thus abandoned the true course pointed out by nature. Our art has diverged from the path of progress. We had a vast and limitless field to explore. Often does the proper remedy lie at our very hand, while we remain ignorant of its existence. I am persuaded that as soon as we seriously investigate the medicinal properties of the vegetable world, and publish to the world the result of our researches, every man will become his own physician. I am convinced that there is a very prompt method for attaining this end, and advancing with a giant's pace the progress of the healing art. Let all nations unite in collecting from their domains all the vulgar medicinal remedies in vogue, which almost always consist of vegetables. Let these be fairly and conscientiously tested; and in cases where peculiar medical recipes exist, the knowledge of which is confined to certain families, if these are found efficacious, let the secret be purchased, no matter at what price. Thus the most uncultivated tribes might furnish us, perhaps, with the most valuable discoveries."

Such were my friend's observations. I told him that I agreed with the opinions which he had expressed,—that I had witnessed among savage tribes the application of certain plants, which effected wonderful cures,—that I believed the virtues of the dragon's blood to have been well known to the Gauls,—that we had in France a multitude of plants of rare virtues, but which had been long entirely neglected. The plantain, for example, is a remedy which I have always seen prove effectual in external

wounds. Its application is extremely simple. It is only necessary to take the leaves, beat them between the hands, and apply them to the wound, so that they may come in close contact with it. Several leaves can be placed, one over another, and they may then be frequently changed, especially when suppuration is very profuse, which is generally the case at first, though it gradually diminishes until the wound is entirely closed. When the wound is very deep, the leaves must be crushed, and the juice must be introduced until the leaves can be applied. If these cannot be obtained, the root must be substituted. This plant would probably produce very beneficial effects in various internal disorders.

My philosophical friend told me that he would experiment on himself with the leaves of the dragon's-blood. I gave him all that I had. He came to me some days afterwards, to congratulate me on the effects which it had produced. He said that there was much more motion in his arms, that he was stronger, and that he had never felt better since he was paralyzed. He added that he intended to make a general application of it over the whole body, but that he required a further supply of leaves for that purpose. I gave him some plants, and also some seed, that he might cultivate it himself in sufficient quantity. Since that time, I have not seen my medical friend; but a short time afterwards, one of my intimate acquaintances called on me, and on my asking him what news he had to tell, he informed me that he was going to see our medical philosopher, that he found him very ill, and that for three days past, he had experienced the most acute suffering, which allowed him not a moment's repose; that his servants in carrying him to see one of his patients, had let him fall on his vertebral column, that he had tried all sorts of remedies, without deriving benefit from any, but, on the contrary, that they seemed rather to increase the pain. I inquired if he had tried the dragon's-blood, and on receiving a reply in the negative, I immediately requested my friend to take him a supply, which he did. The leaves were slightly crushed; a bed of them was made for him—the doctor fell into a sound sleep, and awoke entirely relieved.

A lady of my acquaintance had the misfortune to break her leg. The surgeons set it as soon as the clothing was removed. She felt, as is always the case after a fracture, severe pain, great irritation, general weakness, and considerable inflammation. I desired her, without the knowledge of her doctors, to try an application of the leaves of the dragon's-blood, which she did, and immediately experienced its beneficial effects. The pain and irritation disappeared, and in a very short time, she was able to use the limb, though it had been severely fractured.

The doctors congratulated themselves on so speedy a cure, especially in a subject of her age, (55 years,) but they were not informed that their prescriptions had not been implicitly followed.

I communicated, in 1848, to M. de la Morissier (then minister of war and charged with the colonization of Algiers), the fact that the progress of the colony depended greatly on the culture of maize, and in its general use, which was neglected from ignorance of the immense advantages which the colonists would derive from it. I proposed to furnish them with all the necessary means for attaining this end. At the same time, I gave him three cases of dragon's-blood seed. I said that it was my opinion that this plant, in the climate of Algeria, would develop the same virtues which I had found it to possess in others—that it would be of essential service to the colonists, being always at hand. [It is very easy of cultivation, being sown in a moist soil, and transplanted in almost any soil as soon as it has four leaves, with an interval of about a foot between every two plants. The plant, when once transplanted, is very robust and hardy.] That it would be especially valuable to men living in a strange climate, where they would experience a thousand annoyances produced frequently by trifles, but which yet might deprive them, sometimes for a long period, of the use of their limbs. Bruises, contusions, splinters, stings from venomous plants or insects, burns, sprains, spontaneous sickness, inflammations—that of the eyes, for instance, and all sorts of exterior irritations would be almost immediately cured by the prompt application of the crushed leaves of the plant, or, if these could not be obtained, the root might be substituted. A quantity of the crushed petioles might be put in alcohol for use during the winter, and though the virtues of the plant would not then probably be so active, the preparation would yet prove very valuable.

The Minister of War listened to my remarks with a complaisance which was nothing more than formal politeness, and which induces me to believe that my dragon's-blood seed is still in the Bureau of Colonization, unless indeed it has been thrown into the gutter.

I took occasion also to speak of the danger of percussion fire-arms, and of the means which I had taken of endeavoring, through the Parisian press, to warn the public against adopting methods to protect themselves from this danger, which were almost sure to lead to the very results which they were designed to prevent.

I spoke to men specially conversant with fire-arms, who told me that I exaggerated the danger, and that they had always carried their pieces in the customary manner, without the occurrence of any accident. Where shall we go in search of men imbued with the spirit of progress? Louis Blanc gave utterance to a profound idea, in demanding of the government a minister of progress. It requires a governmental force to counteract all the evil efforts of those who are interested in checking the

career of progress. Such persons are but too numerous in every country, and their social position is almost always the highest and most influential.  
 \* A minister of progress would facilitate, by an immense stride, the advances of society in the path of civilization and happiness; for progress is always beneficial to the human race.

## DANGERS ATTENDING THE USE OF PERCUSSION FIRE-ARMS,

*Arising principally from the modes adopted to prevent them, (addressed a few months since to many of the principal journals of the United States.)*

GENTLEMEN:—The interest which you evince in the work of instructing humanity in all that concerns its welfare, encourages me in the belief that you will grant a favorable reception to the communication which I am about to make, and that you will give it the utmost publicity in your power, by inviting your fellow-laborers to imitate your example.

Having been from my boyhood a lover of field-sports—having always taken the utmost precaution in order to avoid any accident in the use of my weapons—and having thus, up to the period of the application of the principle of percussion, avoided even the accidental discharge of a gun while in my hands, I was astonished at the numerous calamities that are daily caused by the use of percussion fire-arms. I have escaped uninjured; but frequently, owing to a fall, or while leaping a ditch, or riding through a thicket, my gun and pistols have accidentally exploded. Like most persons who meet with similar accidents, I thought I must have left my weapon cocked, a position which would have been much less dangerous than to allow (as I, in common with the generality of sportsmen, did) the hammer to rest on the cap. I never met a sportsman who did not resort to this unfortunate practice when he wished to place his gun in a safe position, instead of leaving it at half-cock, which is the true mode of avoiding danger.

In order to prove the truth of this assertion, take an unloaded gun, place a cap upon the nipple, and bring the hammer down upon it. It will be seen that the upper extremity of the hammer is liable to catch every object which it encounters, that very little force is sufficient to raise it, and that the objects which it may thus catch, will almost always free themselves in order to bring it to full cock. It consequently falls on the nipple, and almost always explodes the cap. This can be easily demonstrated by raising the hammer with the thumb so as to bring it nearly to half cock, and then allowing it to fall on the nipple.

Try the same experiment with a gun at half cock, and the result will be, either to cock it or bring it back to its first position of half cock. It can thus be easily demonstrated that half cock is the only position which gives the sportsman the necessary protection against the accidental discharge of his piece.

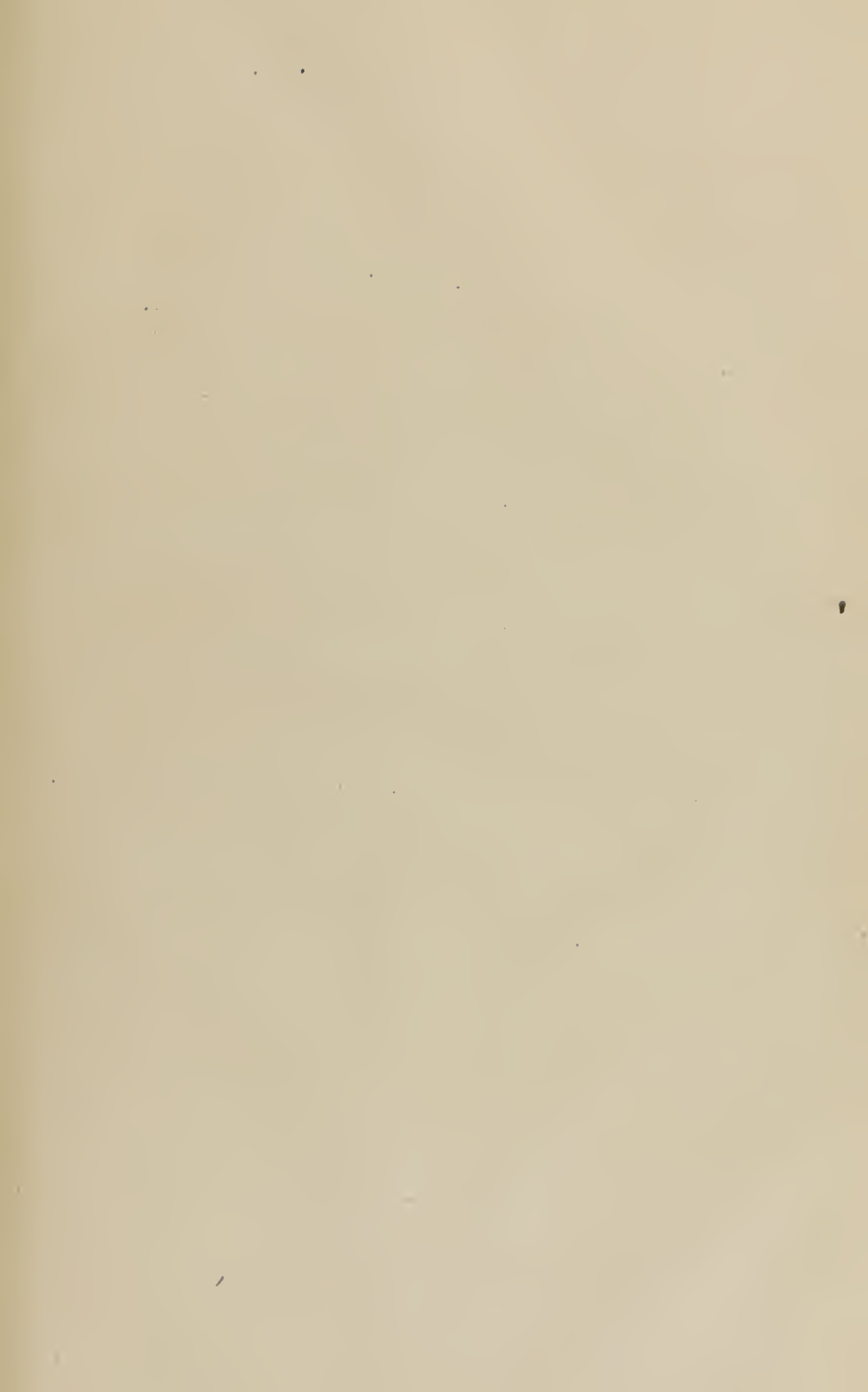
Hence it is evident that a gun at full cock is in a far more secure condition than when off cock entirely, for in order to discharge it in the former position, it is necessary that some motive force should act on the trigger. Now this force will almost always act in the first place on the guard which protects the trigger; it will almost invariably do so obliquely to the plane of the trigger, and in many cases the trigger may be forcibly pressed without discharging the gun, while the upper extremity of the hammer, when resting on the nipple, generally forms a very acute angle, or rather a right angle with the barrel; so that the latter transmits to the hammer any object with which it happens to meet. This raises the hammer, which will seldom fail to fall with sufficient force to discharge the weapon.

These truths cannot be too forcibly impressed on the minds of sportsmen, especially of the young, who are so often the victims of lamentable accidents.

I would suggest to the manufacturers of fire-arms to adopt the use of four checks or stops, or three at least. This addition would render the piece more safe.

I venture to hope that my communication will be more favorably received by you than it was in 1847 by the principal organs of the Parisian press (the National, the Presse, the Debats, and the Constitutional), whose editors declined to insert it. I could not offer to pay for its insertion without feeling that I was insulting the press. With the highest respect, your obt' serv't,

L. DESCHAMPS.  
 WILLIAMSBURG, L. I., Williamsburgh Cottage, near Peck Slip Ferry.







M. J. Hist.

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